

# Living Places

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## Walnut Hill Historic District

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Walnut Hill Historic District

### Map

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The Walnut Hill Historic District was listed on the [National Register](#) of Historic Places in 1975. Portions of the text below were adapted from a copy of the original nomination document. [1] Adaptation copyright © 2010, The Gombach Group.

### Description

The Walnut Hill Historic District is approximately two city blocks wide and five city blocks long, located immediately southwest of the central business district. The Walnut Hill Historic District is oriented in a north-south axis which centers around Camp, Prospect, South High and High streets. Approximately 145 buildings are included. Building uses today (as during the last 140 years) include institutions, offices, and multiple or single family dwellings. The buildings, the majority of frame construction, represent a homogeneous blend of 19th-century styles typifying the urban residential character of the city, especially in the period 1850-1900 when New Britain emerged as a city of international industrial significance.

The Walnut Hill Historic District is a cohesive entity, the boundaries of which are clearly defined by the building types and land-uses which surround it. The west side of the Walnut Hill Historic District is, in part, established by the boundary of Walnut Hill Park, a steeply-graded, large open space that was originally created as an auxiliary reservoir. By the 1860's, the reservoir had been converted to a city park, which is still in existence. The southwest and northwest corners of the Walnut Hill Historic District are anchored respectively by New Britain General Hospital, the state highway right-of-way for Route 72, and a parking lot for the Community Chest.

The north boundary of the Walnut Hill Historic District is well defined by the existence of various large institutional buildings which do not conform to district character.

The east boundary line has been fixed at approximately the point of demarcation between 19th-century residential development and later commercial structures which were built along West Main, Main, and Arch streets as the central business district expanded. Therefore, it was considered most convenient to establish the east boundary at the rear property lines on South High, Prospect, and Camp Streets, as the boundary line also represents a relatively accurate breaking-point in building types, dates of construction, and functional uses. A section of the east boundary has been extended to Arch Street primarily to include the State Armory building and the Lutheran Church property. These structures are considered "critical" to the maintenance of district character.

The south boundary has been extended along the south rear lot lines on Hart Street to include all historical properties located between the commercial development on Arch